

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 H-01 NSC-05 CIAE-00
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R 101145Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6580
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

CONFIDENTIAL MOGADISCIO 1551

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MASS, SO, ET, US
SUBJ: SIGNIFICANT POINTS FROM JULY 7 MEETING WITH SIAD

REF: MOGADISCIO 1550

1. THERE WERE FOUR SEPARATE STATEMENTS WHICH SIAD MADE DURING THE THREE-HOUR CALL BY CODEL LEGGETT WHICH ARE WORTHY OF ATTENTION. FIRST, HE OFFERED ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS ON THE SUPPLY OF US ARMS TO SOMALIA. "SEND YOUR MEN TO CONTROL THE ARMS AFTER THEY ARRIVE IN SOMALIA" WERE HIS EXACT WORDS AS NEARLY AS WE CAN RECONSTRUCT FROM NOTES TAKEN DURING THE CALL. SECOND, AND STILL DEALING WITH THE SECURITY RELATIONSHIP, HE SOUGHT THE CHARGE'S ATTENTION AND LOOKED THE CHARGE DIRECTLY IN THE EYE WHEN HE SAID THE USG COULD SEND ITS MILITARY ATTACHE OR OBSERVER TO SOMALIA AT ANY TIME IT CHOSE TO DO SO. THIS IS CLEARLY SIAD'S APPROVAL OF THE ATTACHE POSITION, AND DOUBTLESS FORESHADOWS A SOMALI REQUEST TO ACCREDIT AN ATTACHE TO WASHINGTON.

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2. SIAD LAID PARTICULAR STRESS ON HIS COMMENTS THAT HIS LEADERSHIP WAS BEING QUESTIONED BY YOUNG OFFICERS AND INTELLECTUALS WHO NOW QUESTIONED THE BREAK WITH THE SOVIET UNION. (WE HAVE SINCE LEARNED HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THIS POINT IN A LONG CONVERSATION WITH THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR ON JULY 5.) EMBASSY RECALLS NO OCCASION, HOWEVER, WHEN SIAD SO CLEARLY RELATED THE MILITARY SUPPLY QUESTION

TO HIS OWN TENURE. HIS REMARK THAT HE WAS NOT CONCERNED SO MUCH WITH EXTERNAL AS INTERNAL THREATS WAS PARTICULARLY REVEALING.

3. FINALLY, SIAD'S PLEA FOR A MISSION TO INVESTIGATE CONDITIONS IN WESTERN SOMALIA IS INTRIGUING. IT MAY OR MAY NOT BE RELATED TO GENERAL SAMANTAR'S SUGGESTION THAT THE USG SEND OBSERVERS TO THE SDR TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE GSDR IS SUPPORTING THE INSURGENCY IN THE OGADEN (MOGADISCIO 1533). THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS IS A TOPIC WORTH EXPLORING. WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN WHAT THE SOMALI REACTION TO A THIRD-COUNTRY NEUTRAL OBSERVER TEAM MIGHT BE, BUT THIS MAY BE ONE PATHWAY TO THE REDUCTION OF THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN THE OGADEN.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THE DEPARTMENT CONSULT WITH AMBASSADOR LOUGHREN REGARDING THE ASSIGNMENT OF A MILITARY ATTACHE TO MOGADISCIO.

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